

REMARKS

Upon entry the present amendment, each of claims 1-14 will have been amended to enhance the clarity of the recitation of Applicants' invention. Additionally, claims 15-20 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Furthermore, a new, more descriptive title of the present invention will have been substituted for the title presently in the application.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper and is thus respectfully requested, in due course.

Initially, Applicants note the Examiner's acknowledgment that drawings were filed in the present application on April 21, 2006. In this regard, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner explicitly indicate his acceptance of the drawings filed in the present application on the above noted date.

Applicants additionally respectfully thank the Examiner for considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on July 26, 2006, by the return of assigned and appropriately annotated copy of the PTO-1449 form attached to the above noted Information Disclosure Statement.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive, and required submission of a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The Examiner additionally suggested a proposed title for incorporation into the present application.

By the present response, Applicants have submitted a substitute title which substantially corresponds to the title suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully thanked for suggesting a new title which is more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the title of the application and entry of the substitute title.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the claims because of a number of language informalities. The Examiner enumerated specific terminology of the claims and was kind enough to suggest alternative replacement terminology so as to enable the language of the claims to more clearly define Applicants' invention. In this regard, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for carefully reviewing the claim language and for his efforts in suggesting more appropriate claim language so as to enhance the clarity of Applicants claims.

By the present response, Applicants have amended each of the claims and have made most if not all of the changes suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants have revised the claim language to even further enhance the clarity of the same as well as to ensure full compliance of the claim language with English language idiom, syntax, and grammar. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the language of the claims.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by KENJI (Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2003 – 257379) which was included in, and brought to the Examiner's attention by the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on July 26, 2006.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above noted rejection and submit that it is inappropriate and improper with respect to the combinations of features recited in each of Applicants claims. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the KENJI reference relied upon by the Examiner does not teach, disclose, suggest, or even render obvious the combination of features recited in Applicants claims. There are substantial and significant structural and functional distinctions between the recitations of Applicants' claims and the disclosure of the cited reference, at least some of which will be set forth hereinbelow. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending the present application, in due course.

The fundamental structural and technical concepts of KENJI and of the present application are rather distinct. The bobbin as disclosed by KENJI serves to hold the coil. In direct contrast, the bobbin as disclosed in the present invention is provided to hold the core. As a result of this feature of the present invention (i.e. a skeleton shaped bobbin) the heat exhaustion effect is increased the heat transfer from the bulb to the coil assembly body is enhanced. This is rather significantly different than the bobbin as disclosed by KENJI. Additionally, due to the use of the skeleton shaped bobbin, the core and the coil can be positioned, located and fixed to the skeleton shaped bobbin with high positional accuracy.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserted that KENJI discloses a skeleton-shaped bobbin (20), a core (35), and a coil (36). Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that the bobbin of KENJI does not comply with the recitations of applicants' claim.

In this regard, Applicants note that the bobbin of KENJI is not skeleton-shaped as asserted by the Examiner, but is rather a hollow but solid cylindrical member. In direct contrast to the above, the bobbin recited in claim 1 includes an opening passing through a side surface of the

substantially cylindrical shape. Clearly, at least this feature recited in Applicants claim 1 is not disclosed by KENJI. In this regard, the Examiner has not explained what basis he has for considering the bobbin of KENJI to be skeleton-shaped and is respectfully requested to do so. Although the bobbin of KENJI is a hollow cylindrical member, the member appears to comprise a solid tube like or pipe like element and cannot reasonably be considered to be a “skeleton-shaped bobbin” as recited in Applicants claims.

Nor does Kenji disclose a core of soft magnetic material at the opening of the skeleton shaped bobbin. Rather, the core 35 as shown in figure 3, appears to be positioned within the hollow space of the solid bobbin 20.

Yet further, Applicants claim recites a coil wound around a surface of the skeleton-shaped bobbin and the core. This is also not disclosed by KENJI wherein the core is positioned within the bobbin and the coil is positioned about the outer surface of the solid bobbin.

For each of the above noted reasons and certainly for all of the above noted reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure of KENJI is inadequate and insufficient to anticipate or even to render unpatentable the combination of features recited in Applicants claim 1.

Each of the dependent claims in the present application is submitted to be patentable over the KENJI reference relied upon by the Examiner based on its dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim as well as based upon its own respective recitations.

In particular, with regard to claim 2, the Examiner identifies the upper collar as 21 and the lower collar as 22 and, without identifying any corresponding structure of the reference, asserts that at least two pillar portions exist. However, element 22 is a vessel receiving part and 21 is the actual bobbin as clearly seen in the drawings of KENJI.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner asserts that the groove 228 contains a lead line of the coil. A review of figure 6 of the reference indicates that the lead lines 61 and 62 are not contained in the groove 228. Rather, the recess 228 as shown in figure 4 of KENJI is configured to receive the projection 401 of the case 40 in order to facilitate joining of the case to the bobbin.

In a generally similar fashion, the features of the various other dependent claims are also not disclosed in the KENJI reference relied upon by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection applied against the claims in the present application together with an indication of the allowability thereof, in due course.

By the present response, Applicants have submitted a number of additional dependent claims for consideration by the Examiner. Each of these claims is submitted to be clearly patentable over the cited reference based on their own recitations as well as for depending from a shown to be allowable independent claim. Accordingly consideration thereof and an indication of the allowability of the newly submitted claims is respectfully requested in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

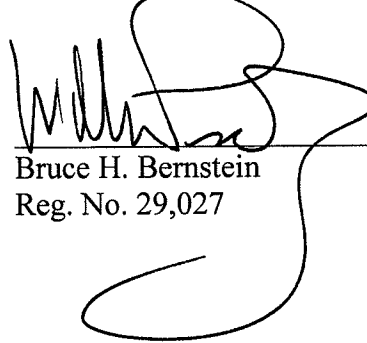
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in clear condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have submitted a new title for entry into the present application and have additionally amended each of the claims to clarify the recitations thereof. In this regard, the claims have been amended both so as to eliminate any basis for objection thereto as well as to even more fully ensure that the claims fully comply with English language idiom, grammar, and syntax.

Applicants have discussed the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner and have pointed out the numerous shortcomings and deficiencies of the reference with respect to the features of the present invention. Applicants have discussed the explicitly recited features of the present invention and with respect to such recitations, have noted the shortcomings of the reference. Accordingly, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hidenori KAKEHASHI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

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